ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

North Alabama Baptist Association

—HELD WITH—

BETHLEHAM CHURCH, JACKSON COUNTY, ALA.,

AUGUST 26TH AND 27TH, A. D., 1892.

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OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

J. W. S. HIGGINS, - MODERATOR, - Valley Head, Ala.

J. C. CROW, - - CLERK, - - Valley Head, Ala.

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FORT PAYNE, ALA.,
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1892.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Association met according to adjournment with Bethleham Church, August 26th and 27th, 1892.

The introductory sermon was delivered by J. W. S. Higgins; text, Malchi, third chapter, 16 verses.

After the refreshments the Association met. Read 122nd Psalm. Prayer by Elder H. H. Kirby.

Appointed Brethren M. J. Latty and J. B. Smith to read letters, constitution, by-laws and articles of faith.

Enrolled names of delegates.

Little River—J. L. Painter, T. N. Kirby, J. C. Crow.

Harmony Grove—J. W. S. Higgins, M. Henegar, A. Gillreath.

Bethlehem—Rev. J. T. Dodd, W. B. Burk, H. Anderson.

Rehoboth—W. J. Garren, P. R. Cloverd.

Head River—J. B. Smith, F. Smith, G. E. Murray.

New Bethel—M. J. Latty, W. J. Stallings, W. X. Hamrick.

Ebenezer—C. W. Warren, G. Seymore, H. Fortner.

Holley Springs—L. B. Kirby, W. T. Jones, J. C. Kirby.

Mt. Pisgah—W. L. Bookout, H. H. Kirby, H. N. Tripp.

Called for petitionary letters. Received none.

Invited visiting ministers and brethren to seats with us.

Elected J. W. S. Higgins, Moderator, and J. C. Crow Clerk for the ensuing year.

Called for Correspondents.

Appointed Committees.

On Preaching—From the church, A. N. McGee; from the body, W. X. Hamrick, C. W. Warren.

On Finance—M. J. Latty, M. Henegar.

On Sabbath Schools—H. H. Kirby, G. E. Murray.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow.

Prayer by H. H. Kirby, and preaching at night by J. L. Painter.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

Met according to adjournment. Read 23rd Psalm. Prayer by J. B. Smith.

Minutes of yesterday read and adopted.

Called for report on finance, total - - - -	$12.20
A donation to the clerk - - - - -	1.70
	$13.90

Report on Temperance—Verbal report received. Discussed by Elders H. H. Kirby, M. Henegar, J. W. S. Higgins, J. T. Dodd. Report adopted.

Business suspended for preaching, by J. T. Dodd, text, John, second chapter, laterclause 4 verse.

Report on Sunday Schools, verbal—Discussed by F. Smith, T. N. Kirby, J. B. Smith, H. H. Kirby, L. B. Kirby, J. W. S. Higgins and J. L. Painter. Report adopted.

Came together at 1:30 o'clock.

Called for report on Mission. Report on Mission discussed by H. H. Kirby, J. T. Dodd. T. N. Kirby. Report adopted.

We, your committee appointed on Mission, beg to submit the following: Seeing the shortness of Baptist preaching in our bounds and the neglect of the poor, we recommend to your body the following: That the churches urge the ministers of our Association to put in every Saturday and Sunday and as much other time as possible preaching, and that the churches aid them in contributing to their needs and the needs of the poor.

H H. KIRBY, Chairman.

Appoint the next meeting of this body to be held with Head River church, on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1893, three miles East of Sulphur Springs Depot, on Lookout Mountain.

On motion that the Clerk have 200 minutes printed and distributed to the churches, and the Clerk to have the rest of the funds for his services.

REPORT OF MINISTERS FOR PAST YEAR.

Elder J. L. Painter preached 85 sermons; exertations. 29; baptised, 1; funeral occasions, 4; joined in matrimony, 2.

Elder J. W. S. Higgins preached 83 sermons; baptised, 2; assisted in the ordination of 1 minister and 1 deacon; served 2 churches; lectures on Sunday Schools, 3, temperance 4.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

Any member of this body presenting a copy of these minutes to any Association with whom we correspond, will be considered a messenger by us.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered the members of the Bethlehem church and friends of

this community for their kindness and hospitality in providing for the delegates and visitory of this Association.

Preaching tonight at the church by Brother Bookout, at 10 o'clock tomorrow by H. H. Kirby.

Read and adopted the minutes. Prayer. Adjourned to meet with Head River church, on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1893.

Elder J. W. S. Higgins, Moderator.

J. C. Crow, Clerk.

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CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be known as the North Alabama Baptist Association.

2. The objects of this Association are to promote union among the children of God, their growth of grace, the salvation of sinners and the Glory of God; for effecting all of which they are authorized to adopt the arrangements they judge proper. Provided, such arrangements are in accordance with the intention of the union as expressed in the preamble, and directed by the word of God.

3. The Association shall be composed of brethren, chosen by the churches in union which they represent, who shall produce certificates of their appointment, together with a statement of the members in their respective churches—of those baptised, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead during the year, with the whole number in fellowship.

4. Each church shall have the privilege of sending three delegates and no more.

5. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk (last shall be Treasurer), who shall be chosen by ballot out of the members present, and who shall continue in office until a new election shall be made.

6. After the reading of the letters from the churches, enrolling the names of the delegates and minuting the state of each church, the Constitution, Declaration of Faith and By-Laws shall be read. The door shall then be opened for the admission of other churches into the union. If any such shall present themselves by letter or delegates they shall, on satisfactory evidence of their regular formation, faith and practice, be received into fellowship upon the principles of the Constitution, by the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator.

7. After reading the Constitution, Declaration of Faith and By-Laws, and the reception of other churches, if any apply, then the Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen.

8. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order and call to its observance at any time. He shall have the privilege of leaving his seat, upon putting one in his place, and of engaging in debate.

9. The Clerk shall minute the proceedings of the Association, prepare them for the press, keep a file of the printed minutes, present them at each session for use of the Association, and deliver them to his successor. He shall also take charge of the money and property of the Association, and dispose of them as the body shall direct.

10. In the decision of any point the majority of votes shall determine the point.

11. The Association shall recognize the entire independence of the churches as to any other head than Christ. The Association shall not assume any power over them in relation to their internal concerns, but shall aid them in any consistent manner. The Association will receive and act upon any question that may be sent up by the churches, and attend to any case of difficulty among them which they cannot satisfactorily settle among themselves.

12. Each member of the Association shall be expected to be in his place at the hour of meeting on the first and each succeeding day of the session, and remain until the dismission of the body.

13. As the object of this union is to promote brotherly love, the edification of Christians, the conversion of sinners and the glory of God, it shall be its duty and privilege to hold affectionate correspondence with other Associations, and to embrace every opportunity of doing good unto all men, and especially to them that are of the household of faith, as in their judgment may seem proper

14. This Association shall adjourn to any time and place they may determine upon.

15. The churches of this Association shall send up yearly by their messengers a reasonable contribution for the printing of the minutes, which business shall be confined to some discreet person, who shall have it in charge to superintend the printing and distribution to the Associations with whom correspondence is maintained, and to the churches in fellowship.

16. As this Association is a voluntary connection, each church in it shall have the liberty of withdrawing, upon a request, setting forth its reasons for such a step—at the same time itself be bound to hear and weigh any reasons that may be urged against its withdrawal before its final separation.

17. The Association will have the privelege of withdrawing its connection with any church in the union which shall become disorderly, after consistent efforts have been made in vain to reclaim her from errors.

18. No alteration shall be made in the Constitution, or in the Declaration of Faith and Practice, hereinafter set forth, except such alteration shall be passed a year previous upon the Minutes and the views of the churches obtained; when, if a majority of the churches and two-thirds of the Association shall approve of it, the alteration shall be made.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one—1 John, 5:7; 1 Timothy, 2:5.

2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the New Testament the rule of faith and practice.—2 Timothy, 3:16; Mathew, 9:13; Hebrews, 10:9.

3. We believe that by one man sin entered the world and death by sin, and so death passeth upon all men, for all have sinned—Romans, 5:12, 21.

4. We believe that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man, and that through his moritorious death the way of salvation is made possible for God to have mercy upon all that come unto him upon Gospel terms—Hebrew 2:9; 1 John, 2:2; 4:10.

5. We believe that being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.—Romans 5:1.

6. We believe that the Saints will preserve in grace, and that none of them will be finally lost.—Mark, 16:16; John, 10:29; Romans, 8:38, 39; 1 John 3:9.

7. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general and universal judgment, according to the decision of which the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment and the righteous to life eternal.—Mathew, 25:46, John, 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:12, 13.

8. We believe that the visible Church of Christ is a Congregation of faithful Baptised men and women who have obtained fellowship with each other, and given themselves to the Lord, and one another, having agreed to keep up a godly discipline according to the rules of the gospel.—Mathew, 10:18; Acts, 2:4; Ephesians, 1:2; Romans, 6:3, 4; 2 Corinth, 8:5.

9. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the Church, and the government thereof is with the body.—Acts, 14:23; 1 Corinth, 14:29.

10. We believe that water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances instituted by Christ, and should be continued until his second coming, and that washing the Saint's feet is a duty that should be practiced by the church.—Mark, 16:15; 1 Corinth, 11:23, 24, 25.

11. We believe that true believers are the only fit subjects of Baptism, and that immersion is the only scriptural mode.—Acts, 2:41, 10:47; Romans, 6:4.

12. We believe that none but regularly baptised members have a right to commune at the Lord's table.—Mathew, 23:26; Acts, 20:7; 1 Corinthians 10:16.

13. We believe that the Lord's day ought to be observed and set apart for the worship of God, and no worldly business ought to be transacted thereon, works of piety and necessity excepted.—Genesis, 2:2; Ex. 20:10; Luke, 11:5.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. Those members who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union shall compose the Association.

2. The members chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with the number in fellowship, those baptised, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead, since the last session.

3. The members thus chosen shall be denominated, "The North Alabama Baptist Association."

4. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to infringe upon any of the internal rights of the churches.

5. This Association shall have a Moderator and a Clerk, who shall continue in the office until the next election.

6. If a new church should desire to be admitted into this union it shall petition by letter and delegates, and if, upon examination, it be found orthordox and orderly, it shall be received by the Association, the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to her delegates.

7. Each church in this union shall have the privilege of sending three delegates and no more.

8. Every query sent to the Association by any church of the union, shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated, and if there be a majority for it, shall be investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn; provided always, that those be first considered which affect the union of the churches, unless ruled out of order.

9. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn.

10. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except he depart from the subject.

11. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

12. There shall be no talking or whispering in time of a public speech, nor reflections cast upon the speaker.

13. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

14. If any member shall break the rules of this decorum, he shall be immediately reproved by the Moderator.

15. When it is necessary that the Moderator shall leave his seat, in debate or otherwise, he shall fill his place by nomination.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading letters from the churches.
2. Reading By-Laws, Constitution and Articles of Faith.
3. Call for petitionary letters.
4. Invite visiting ministers and brethren to seats.
5. Election of officers.
6. Call for correspondence.
7. Appoint committees.
8. Fix the time and place for holding the next meeting.
9. Report of committees.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Read and correct the minutes.
12. Fix the order of printing and distributing the minutes.
13. Cost of printing minutes $9.00.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches.	Postoffice.	Moderator.	Clerk.	Delegates.	Baptized	Rec'd by letter	Dis'd by letter	Restored	Excluded	Dead	Total	Meeting Days	Contributions
Little River	Valley Head.	J W S Higgins	J. C. Crow.	T. N. Kirby, J. C. Crow, J. L. Painter	1	3					59	1	$ 1 50
Mt. Pisgah	Pea Ridge	W. L. Bookout	H. N. Tripp	H. N. Tripp, H. H. Kirby, W. L. Bookout.			4				30	3	1 40
Holley Springs.	Valley Head.	J W S Higgins	W. T. Jones.	W. T. Jones, T. C. Kirby, L. B. Kirby		8				1	25	3	1 10
New Bethel	Ider	J. T. Dodd	W. H. Hamric.	M. J. Batty, W. J. Stading.		2	4		1		31	1	1 45
Rehoboth	Roshe, Ala.	H. H. Kirby.	P. R. Colvard	P. R. Colvard, W. J. Garren.							9	2	1 00
Bethlehem	Higdon	J. T. Dodd	W. B. Burk	W. B. Burk, J. T. Dodd, H. Anderson.	4	9			1		39	2	1 55
Harmony Grove.	Valley Head.	J W S Higgins	W. F. Crow.	A. Gillreath, M. Henegar, J. W. S. Higgins.	2	2	4				33	2	2 00
Head River.	Sulphur Spgs.	J. L. Painter.	G. E. Murray.	G. E. Murray, F. Smith, J. B. Smith.	1	1	2				31	4	1 25
Ebenezer	Valley Head.	J. G. Denton	Wm. Chitwood	H. Fortner, G. Seymore, C. W. Warren			3			3	23	3	65
					8	25	17		2	4	280	21	$390

Ordained Ministers: J. L. Painter, J. W. S. Higgins, Valley Head, Ala. postoffice; Moses Henegar, Kaolin, Ala. postoffice; J. T. Dodd, Ider postoffice; H. H. Kirby, Pea Ridge; W. L. Bookout, Rosadale, Ala., postoffice.

.90